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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/042,417 03/13/98 WOLRICH G 15311-2107

TM11/1020

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EXAMINER

BACKER, F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED:

10/20/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/042,417	WOLRICH ET AL.
	Examiner Firmin Backer	Art Unit 2781

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2000.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some * c) None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:

1. received.

2. received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.

3. received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

14) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 17) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

15) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 18) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

16) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 19) Other: _____

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Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on October 5th, 2000 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/042,417 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. This claim is an omnibus

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type claim. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the mantissas....." in paragraph 3 lines 15-18. This limitation is vague and does not offer a clear understanding of what is being claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 5,276,634).

8. As per claim 1, Suzuki et al teach an addition pipeline, adapted for application of first and second operand signals, each of which represents the sign, exponent, and mantissa of floating-point input operand, for performing an effective addition or subtraction on the input operands and generating an addition-pipeline output signal representing the result (see abstract and column 11 line 21-32), the addition pipeline comprising a mantissa adder for application of first and second mantissa signals respective mantissa values (see fig 1, 2, 14, column 17 lines 34-42), perform addition and subtraction on the mantissa values and generate a mantissa adder output (see abstract and fig 1, 14, and column 1 lines 18-29), mantissa processing circuit for generating and applying mantissa input operands to the mantissa adder, subtracting a pair of mantissas when

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they are offset to the left by one position from the applied mantissa signals and add when the pair of mantissas are the same (see Fig 1, 2, 14, column 1 lines 18-29, column 11 lines 12-18) (see also claims 1, 10, 17).

9. As per claims 2, 3 Suzuki et al teach an addition pipeline wherein the main mantissa adder performs a normalization shift in one direction (to the right only) when necessary to produce an output within predetermined normalization limits by performing the normalization shift in only one direction (see abstract, column 1 lines 47-54, column 25 lines 31-33, 26 lines 42-45).

10. As per claim 4, 7, Suzuki et al teach an addition pipeline wherein the mantissa processing circuitry comprises a pair of processing trains for generating first and second processed mantissa signals from input operands' mantissas, each processing train performing a shift, for at least a plurality of input-operand-value pairs, that is one more position to the left for an effective subtraction than for an effective addition (see column 14 lines 48-65, column 15 lines 13-26, sections Mantissa subtraction).

11. As per claim 5, 6, Suzuki et al teach an addition pipeline wherein the mantissa adder includes rounding circuit operable in at least one rounding mode to add a rounding bit and being capable of adding the rounding bit at a selected one of only two bit positions in a given rounding mode (see column 1 lines 56-69, claims 1, 10, 17).

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is 703-305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 8:30-6:00 and every other Fri 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sheikh Ayaz can be reached on 703-305-9648. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3719 for regular communications and 703-305-5352 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Firmin Backer
Firmin Backer
October 15, 2000

Ayaz Sheikh
AYAZ R. SHEIKH
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